

Papermaking

Fall 2019, Ocean County Artists Guild

Teacher: Caitie Kohl

Material List:

Teacher/Guild Provides:

- Blenders (1 for every 2 students)
- Deckle and mold (1 for every 2 students)
- Vats/watertight tub (1 for every 2 students)
- 1 shock vacuum cleaner
- Plastic to protect floors
- Area for hang-drying paper: clothes pins, string, flat wooden surface for drying paper
- Felt cloth
- Flat, wooden surface for drying paper

Student Brings:

- Clothes and shoes you don't care about – you will get messy!
- Containers to hold your pulp
- Bucket
- Sponge

In-depth Class Description:

Paper is an exciting and elusive art medium. Together we will explore the use of handmade paper as a versatile and sustainable medium for creative expression.

At essence, the process of papermaking involves soaking fibrous materials together in water. This substance is then placed onto a screen and spread out. The water and excess material falls through the screen, leaving a mat of fibers. The remaining water is pressed and dried out, creating a sheet of paper. The artistry is achieved through the use of different techniques and materials, which vary across cultures and practices. Paper pulp can be transformed into sculptural works and drawings with unusual surface textures. It can elude to skin, metal, rock, or represent something entirely unique.

By learning the craft, artists can create unique and beautiful papers to use in their work or sell. The possibilities for papermaking are endless. I will work with each student to integrate their personal artistic interests and talents into their pieces. You will learn how to form your own sheets of paper and explore the

possibilities of embedding materials such as dried flowers and plants, thread, and seeds. Methods such as pulp dying, collage, hand stitching, and digital printing will be also be introduced.

Along the way, students will learn the fascinating history of a material that changed civilization by disseminating several of the world's major religions, launching social and scientific revolutions and continuing to provide a versatile substrate for the delivery of knowledge and creative ideas.

My goal is for you to leave this class with knowledge of how to create paper from start to finish, a sculptural piece, and a stack of paper that can be used for other projects. Through the use of traditional and non-traditional processes, tailored to the capabilities of each fiber, you will stretch your artistic and technical skills to create unusual and beautiful works of art.

Tentative Syllabus*

Week 1: Intro

- Intro to the class
- **Presentation: papermaking history, application, process, examples**
- **Demo: beating pulp, pulp dying, vat use, sheet formation, and deckled edges**
⇒ *For next session, bring in fibrous material to make your first batch of pulp. Think of this paper as your autobiography. What materials would you use to describe your personal story? Photos? Your favorite flower? Letters from a loved one? Pages from your favorite book? Spices? The possibilities are endless. Let's experiment.*

Week 2: Autobiographical Paper

- Let's make our first sheets of paper
- Beating pulp, using the vats, forming sheets, and drying
- **Short Demo: Collage and digital printing, examples**

⇒ *Next week, we will venture out into nature. Wear comfortable shoes for a short walk along the Island Heights boardwalk. We will collect natural material to add to our paper. If you already have something in mind, feel free to bring your own flowers, plants, thread, seeds, etc.*

Week 3: Nature Paper Part 1

- **Short Presentation: Nature and Paper, examples**
- Nature walk on the Island Heights Boardwalk to collect materials
- **Short Demo: Embedding elements of nature into paper**
- Make your *Nature Paper* pulp
 - ⇒ *For next week, think about an item you would like to make a mold of. Bring in a few items next week.*

Week 4: Nature Paper Part 2 and Sculpture

- Continue pulling *Nature Paper*
- **Short Presentation and Demo: Stitching with a Needle and Thread, examples**
- **Short Presentation: Sculpture, examples**
- Lets make a sculpture! Use your paper to make a sculpture from the item (mold) of your choice.

Week 5: Sculpture and Further Exploration of Technique

- Let's see how our molds turned out. We will piece together both halves to finalize the piece's structure.
- Add
- Pull Paper of your choice

Week 6: Technique Play

- Further exploration in pulp dying, watercolor, collage, hand stitching, and digital printing to your paper

**This is a provisional syllabus. Just like all art, experimentation and play are key elements to the papermaking process. During studio time, the hours will fly by when you are in the zone and having fun, and I don't ever want to disrupt your creative process. Therefore I listed all bulleted studio time, lectures, and demos to fit into a 6 week course schedule, allowing flexibility to carry over on a weekly basis.*